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U. S. CONGRESS. - In the Senate, yesterday, the Committee on Foreign Relations reported back the memorial of Wm. Cornell Jewett, in reference to mediation by Switzerland, with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed; which was agreed to. A resolution was adopted calling for the correspondence between the State department and the British Government in relation to the capture of Brit ish vessels having on board articles contraband of war, intended for the use of the present Confederate states. At the expiration of the morning hour the death of Hon. J. A. Pearce was announced. Eulogies were delivered by Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Bayard, and Mr. Fessenden, and after the adoption of the usual resolutions, the Senate adjourned. The House, yesterday, renewed in Committee of the Whole, the discussion of the Finance bill. The death of Senator Pearce was announced by a message from the Senate, and after the usual proceedings, the House adjourned for the day.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE WITH THE VAL-LEY OF VIRGINIA.—The following letter of instructions was yesterday received in Baltimore from the Secretary of the Treasury, with regard to trade over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad with the Valley of Viginia:

Treasury Department, January 12, 1863.

Sir—The restrictions upon internal commercial intercourse, under Treasury Department regulations of 28th August, 1862, in addition to instructions heretofore given, are hereby extended as follows:

On and after this date Custom House permits, as therein provided, must be obtained for all shipments of goods, wares and merchandise to any point on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, west of Baltimore and east of Wheeling.

No goods, wares or merchandise whatever shall be transported for purposes of trade to any point south of the Potomac river, between the parallels of Washington and Piedmont.

Family supplies can only be permitted to be transported south of the Potomac, between the parallels named, in quantities ordinarily required for actual family consumption, where satisfactory evidence of the loyalty of the proposed recipient is furnished to the Custom officers before granting a permit, which permit shall be subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the General commanding the Department.

You will see that these regulations are rigidly enforced, and will promptly advise and instruct the subordinate officers and aids to the revenue acting in your district accordingly.

Respectfully, GEO. HARRINGTON,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.
Henry W. Hoffman, esq., Collector. &c.,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Gold, in New York, yesterday 144%.

Mr. Gladstone, in a speech on the Lancashire distress, expressed the hope that the crisis had passed, and said that by March a decided improvement in trade would be experienced.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Examiner says: "John Minor Botts has recently purchased, in Orange county, Va., an estate of 2,800 acres, for the sum of \$104,600, and has left the city to take possession of the same, with the intention of devoting the remainder of his years to agricultural pursuits."

George W. Randolph, of Albemarle county, ex-Secretary of War, at Richmond, is favorably spoken of as the successor of Governor Letcher.

The theatres in the South are doing a flourishing business. At Richmond, the Broad Street Theatre, Metropolitan Hall and Richmond Varieties are in full blast.

A camp of instruction is to be established at Petersburg.

\*The Tredegar Iron Works advertise for five hundred negroes for the ensuing year, to be employed at the blast furnaces in Botetourt county, and at the coal mines on the James river,

The Whig says the Murfreesboro' prisoners are to be sent to Richmond, the Federal Government having refused to receive them unless their officers are also paroled. The latter, some two hundred in number, will be held in confinement in accordance with the president's proclamation.

Mr. Hart, of Albemarle, has offered in the Virginia Senate a resolution for an inquiry into the expediency of retaliation for the Emancipation Proclamation, by arresting citizens of the U. S. government in Virginia, and subjecting them to trial and punishment by death for a high crime.

Among the recent arrivals in Richmond, are the Marquis of Hartington (son of the Duke of Devonshire and member of the British Parhament for North Lancashire) and Col. Wm. Leslie, M. P.

The British steamer Petrel and the French corvette Milan were at Charleston on the 1st instant.

On Monday last Capt. John H. McNeill, of Imboden's Rangers, made a dash in Hardy county, and succeeded in killing one, and capturing 33 men, 61 horses, 9 sets of harness, saddles and bridles, 14 revolvers, 14 Burnside rifles, and 20 sabres.

Among the speakers at a recent meeting in Manchester was the negro Jackson, President Davis's escaped coachman.

Mr. Webster, a clerk in the State Department, had a personal altercation at the Kirby House, on Saturday night, with Hon. James E. Kerrigan, member of Congress from New York, in which the latter is understood to have been rather worsted. The affair is said to have been caused by the denunciation of Secretary Seward on the part of Mr. Kerrigan.

M. Fould, has made his financial statement to the French Legislature. The deficit was thirtyfive million of francs! The expense of the Mexican expedition was eighty-three million francs. THE GRANT ARMY.—This army, much of which was expected to co-operate with Sherman in the attack on Vicksburg, seems to have gone forward only to go back.

The latest intelligence, via Cairo, leaves us in doubt as to what disposition will be next made of it, but favors the impression that another advance is not immediately to be made. The Confederates threatened to interfere with Grant's base at Memphis, and so, the alternative being either to go back, and keep open his communications in the rear, or to go forward, and run the risk of starvation, or being surrounded by the Confederates, he cautiously chose the former.

It was expected that Grant would help Sherman by seizing the railroad leading from Jackson to Vicksburg, but that expectation turns ont to have been a "delusion," if not a "snare."—[Wash. Star.

San Francisco, January 10.—The steamer St. Louis sailed to-day with eighty passengers and \$300,000 in treasure for New York, and \$580,000 for England.

The steamer Scotland, for Hong Kong, sailed hence to-day, taking \$190,000 in treasure and \$60,000 worth of produce. The Scotland is the first of the line of four British steamers designated to run regularly from this port to China and Japan.

The total amount of treasure received in San Francisco from all points during the year was forty-nine millions of dollars.

The ship Washington also sailed hence today for Hong Kong, carrying California produce and \$26,000.

The ship Merrimac also sailed hence for Liverpool, with 30,000 sacks of wheat.

There have been obtained at the U.S. Treasury Department, since July 1st, from all sources \$288,304,618, exclusive of receips from customs, &c., making the total \$325,000,000 in round numbers. There has been paid to troops \$70,825,583, 67; to Quartermaster's Department \$110,482,486.27; to Commissary Department \$30,647,492.83: miscellaneous \$31,833,200.22; total \$243,761.99.

There seems to be no doubt on the part of any that the President will approve the verdict of the Porter court, acquitting that officer.

As soon as this is done, his friends contemplate tendering him a complimentary serenade.

The commodious residence of Chas. Hill, of Maryland, in Washington, is to be converted into an eye and ear hospital, to be under the charge of Dr. Hildreth, at present in charge of a number of patients thus afflicted in Judiciary Square hospital.

It is proposed to establish an independent naval department, embracing the inland waters of North Carolina, for Capt. Alex. Murray, Senior officer commanding the U.S. Naval forces in the Sounds of North Carolina. Capt. Murray's command is at present attached to the north Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

The Louisville Journal speaks of the President's proclamation with earnest condemnation, but counsels moderation.